

### **Amendments to the Specification**

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0002]:

#### **BACKGROUND**

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0006]:

#### **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph:

[0006] ~~The~~ An object of the present invention ~~is based on this arrangement as the closest prior art. It is based on the object of developing~~ is to provide a fuel cell in which it is possible to individually influence the gas composition in different regions of a cell.

Please delete paragraph [0007].

Please add new paragraph [0007.1] before paragraph [0008] as follows:

[0007.1] The present invention provides a fuel cell including a membrane electrode assembly (MEA) and a bipolar plate. The bipolar plate includes an anode-side gas distributor structure for distributing anode reactants, a cathode-side gas distributor structure for distributing cathode reactants, and a guide passage structure for distributing a cooling medium. At least one of the anode-side gas distributor structure and the cathode-side gas distributor structure is divided into at least a first field and a second field, each of the first and second field having an entry port and an exit port for the reactants. In addition, the present invention provides a method for operating a fuel cell that includes passing a reactant into an entry port of the first field and out of an exit port of the first field, mixing the reactant with a fresh reactant so as to form a mixture, and passing the mixture into the entry port of the second field.

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0009]:

#### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Please replace paragraph [0009] with the following amended paragraph:

[0009] The invention is described in more detail below on the basis of a simple exemplary embodiment using the reference numerals of figure 2, and with reference to the drawings, in which:

Please add new paragraph [0009.1] before paragraph [0010]

[0009.1] Figure 1 shows a prior art version of distributor plate of a fuel cell; and

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0011]:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Please replace paragraph [0017] with the following amended paragraph:

[0017] With regard to the routing of the cooling medium, figure 1 ~~+~~ 2 merely provides one exit port (8) and one entry port (7) for all the fields of a cell. To provide more accurate control of the temperature of the individual fields, however, it is also possible for fields to be supplied using an additional entry and exit port for the cooling medium (not shown). In this case, analogously to what has been stated for the anode and cathode, the incoming and outgoing streams of cooling medium of the individual fields can be combined with one another. Analogously to what has been stated for anode and cathode, it is possible for streams of cooling medium of certain fields to be either combined or split and then completely or partially introduced into a further field.